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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
TRSE-00 /079 W
----------081251 120040Z /75
R 111200Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4150
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 1855

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, DR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BALAGUER SAYS HE WILL RESPECT OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER, IN CAMPAIGN SPEECH IN AZUA APRIL 7, STATE HE WILL RESPECT RESULTS OF MAY 16 ELECTIONS. PRESIDENT SAID HE WILL NEVER ACCEPT "USURPED POWER" AND WILL WIN ELECTIONS WITH "THE PEACE OF VOTES NOT BOOTS."

2. BALAGUER RECALLED THAT HE HAD SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OPPOSITION DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD) IN WHICH HE PLEDGED TO RESPECT THE POPULAR WILL AS EXPRESSED IN THE ELECTIONS. HE STATED THE COUNTRY WILL HAVE A FREE ELECTORAL CONTEST IN WHICH THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE ITS DESTINY.

3. PRESIDENT AFFIRMED THAT ONCE IN THE VOTING BOOTH NO CITIZEN WILL "HAVE A POLICEMAN (TELLING HIM) TO VOTE RED (REFORMIST PARTY COLOR)". AT THAT MOMENT, SAID BALAGUER, "THE MOST HUMBLE PEASANT, THE MOST CULTIVATED WOMAN AND THE WOMAN WHO HAS NOT GONE TO SCHOOL WILL FEEL AS GREAT AS THE PRESIDEN OF THE REPUBLIC."

4. DAY FOLLOWING BALAGUER'S REMARKS, LISTIN DIARIO EDITORIALIZED "PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS SAID PRIVATELY MORE THAN ONCE THAT HE ONLY
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CONCEIVES OF HIS REELECTION BY MEANS OF THE FREE VOTE OF THE MAJORITY OF CITIZENS. ALSO HE HAS PUBLICLY GUARANTEED THE FREEDOM AND PURITY OF THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. YESTERDAY...HE EXPRESSED THIS THINKING AND THAT DECISION IN A MORE VIGOROUS AND CONVINCING FORM THAN EVER. FOR US, THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS ARE NOT ONLY COMPLETELY SINCERE, BUT ALSO DEMONSTRATE A FIRM POLITICAL SENSE...IF (BALAGUER) WINS THE ELECTIONS CLEANLY, THE

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COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE WITH A NOTABLE PRESIDENT, THOUGH NOT CERTAINLY AN IRREPLACEABLE PRESIDENT. IF HE LOSES CLEANLY AND ACCEPTS THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS, AS IS HIS FIRM PURPOSE, HE WILL BECOME BY THAT SUPREMELY DEMOCRATIC ACT THE GREATES PRESIDENT IN DOMINICAN HISTORY, ADMIRED, LOVED AND RESPECTED BY ALL..."

5. COMMENT. ALTHOUH PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS PLEDGED FAIR ELECTIONS IN PAST, MOST RECENT REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT IS SALUTORY AS ELECTIONS DRAW NEARER.
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